



THE GETHSEMANE GRAPEVINE

Volume LII No. 21

November 6, 2018

Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known. Jer 33:3

A few weeks ago, it was announced that Dr. James Addison, a researcher at Houston's M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, was awarded the 2018 Nobel Prize in Medicine. Dr. Addison's life's work may lead to treatment, or cures, that will save thousands, or millions, of lives. The Nobel Prize carries a \$1,000,000 award, but most times, the laureate puts the money back into research. I'm pretty sure Dr. Addison is not doing this for the money, but because of a calling.

Who in Houston doesn't know of J.J. Watt? The Texan's star defensive end was born and raised in Wisconsin, but J.J. has adopted Houston as his home - and we have adopted him. After Hurricane Harvey, J.J. started a fund to raise money to help the victims of that terrible storm. His original goal was \$200,000, but at last counting, he had raised over \$41,000,000. Every penny has gone to those in need.

Each of these great men has done something remarkable, something good.

"I have talked with great men, and I do not see how they differ from others." Abraham Lincoln

A couple, very close friends of our family, lost their 20 year old son to cancer a few years ago. Shortly before his passing, and with his encouragement, they began a non-profit foundation to assist families of patients by providing help with the high costs of transportation and parking at the Medical Center. Parking vouchers, Uber and Lyft cards are given to anyone who needs help. She once told me "I don't know if it's silly, I don't know if it helps, but it's what we want to do." A recent charity golf tournament for the foundation raised over \$60,000. That's a lot of parking.

"So also good works are conspicuous, and even those that are not cannot remain hidden." Tim 5:25

MANNA has been an important part of Gethsemane's life for a long time. The organization has helped thousands of people, but MANNA couldn't operate without the countless hours put in by the volunteers who are drawn to help. Members of our congregation have been volunteering for many years, one for over nine years. Why? They care and want to share their blessings.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34

Gethsemane has a vibrant and exciting new ESL program. The assistants and teachers are volunteering their time and energy to help people, not just to survive, but to prosper, by improving their ability to communicate.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matt 5:16

"Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith apart from the works of the law." Rom 3:27

We know that we can't "work" our way to Salvation. We can't add anything to what Jesus has done for us. That's finished. We know that Jesus has given everything to us - the gift of eternal life with Him. We joyfully give a small piece of our gifts to help others. Not as a command, but as a grateful response to what we have been given.

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Eph 2:10

"For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law." Rom 3:28

Go in Peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Yours in Christ Jesus, Curtis



Sunday Morning Bible Classes (10:30 am)

“The Book of Acts”

Led by Doug Pennekamp,
meets in the Life Center

“Peter, from Fisherman to Fisher of Men”

Women Only – meets in the Library

“The Book of Romans”*

Led by Pastor Jerry
meets in the Sanctuary

**The Apostle Paul wrote letters to churches that make up nearly half of the New Testament in our Bibles. Romans is considered by many to be his greatest work of theology and encouragement. Join Pastor McNamara in the Sanctuary each week for a study of this powerful letter.*

Tuesday Morning Bible Class

Join us on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am in the library to study God’s Word. The class is studying Luther’s Small Catechism. Pastor Hilsabeck is the leader of this class. Prayerfully consider making the choice to participate in this class; everyone is welcome.

Autumn Group

Autumn Group will meet on **Tuesday, November 13**. The November meal is a turkey dinner in celebration of Thanksgiving! There will be turkey, ham, dressing, salads, cranberries, vegetables, bread or rolls, and desserts. We start at 10:00 am so come visit, play games and join everyone for the delicious meal at noon.



November 11th

The Bible readings are:

1 Kings 17:8-16

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

November 18th

The Bible readings are:

Daniel 12:1-3

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44



Enjoy dinner and fellowship
in the Life Center

on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm

through November 28th

(no meal on November 21st)

Prices

Adults - \$4.00

Children ages 5 to 11 years - \$2.00

Children under 5 years - Free

"To go's" for homebound and caregivers - \$4.00

Other "To-go's" - \$5.00

Congregational Meeting

Every fall the Gethsemane church council presents a work program for voter approval. Our congregation will meet on Sunday, November 18, 2018 after the Sunday School hour to approve the 2019 work program. A light lunch will be served.

The work program is a guide that helps the council prudently plan how to manage the gifts that God gives.

Our church constitution asks us to make the program available for review by the congregation at least two weeks prior to the congregational meeting. Copies of the 2019 work program are available in the church office.



It was so much fun to see all the children excited to come to school in costume. We enjoyed trick or treating in the gym on a very gloomy Halloween. The children had a chance to pick a pumpkin

from our patch and have small classroom parties. It is such a blessing that we have the opportunity to hand out treats that have Jesus as part of them, such as the candy corn squeeze toys with the saying, "Shine like Jesus" printed on them. I know that sometimes it is hard to shine like Jesus, but it is so cool that we have that opportunity.

As we approach the holiday season, I pray that you take the opportunity to shine like Jesus and to become Jesus to others. He has called us to be His hands and feet, and what a blessing it is to have the opportunity to be God's hands and feet to these children.

We have a couple of up-coming events that I would love to tell you about. This Thursday we will celebrate Thanksgiving with the children. We have volunteers cooking a traditional Thanksgiving lunch for our children and their parents. The next big event is our annual walk-a-thon. The money that is raised will allow us to have additional enrichment programs for the children this school year.

The church and preschool have partnered to adopt two families for Christmas this year. We will have the gift trees up by the time you receive your newsletter. If you choose to help, we need all gifts returned by Dec. 10th so that we can deliver them by the 14th.

I pray you are all doing well and are as excited about the holidays as I am!

In His Service
Kim Perry - Director

Do you have a picture from a Gethsemane event? Email it to Marissa at mpennekamp@earthlink.net with a caption to be featured on the Gethsemane social media pages. This is a great way to show our community the events happening at Gethsemane!



LWR MISSION
QUILTS & KITS

Tie-quilts for Lutheran World Relief

Wednesday, December 5th

9:30 am in the GLC

Everyone is welcome!

Tie Quilters in need of sheets

The quilting group is in need of more sheets. They are looking for **clean, gently used sheets with no stains or holes.** If you have sheets you can spare, please donate them to the quilters. They will turn them into quilts for Lutheran World Relief. If you have questions, contact Loretta Schlobohm.



Gethsemane Preschool Walk-a-Thon

Little feet are walking to raise funds to benefit the preschool. This fun event will take place on November 13th & 14th, beginning at 10:00 am. Come cheer them on!



Please sign-up in the gathering area to bring three dozen cookies for everyone to enjoy with their coffee & juice between the worship service and Sunday school. Your help with this project will be greatly appreciated!

MANNA'S Thanksgiving Drive

This year, The Ministry Assistance of the Near Northwest Alliance (MANNA) is hosting a campaign titled: **"Feed a Family for Thanksgiving"**

Please donate \$25 which will be used to purchase a gift card that will be presented to a family in need in Houston, Texas. The goal is to feed 200 families this Thanksgiving season by raising \$5,000 to purchase the gift cards.

With as little as \$25, individual families are able to buy a turkey and host their own Thanksgiving dinner. These contributions will help families in need create magical memories that will last for a lifetime.

Join with MANNA and help make an impact in a tremendous way! Donations may be made online or through the mail by check.

Online: go to
<https://www.manna-houston.org/how-to-help/events/feed-a-family-for-thanksgiving.html>

or mail your check to:

Ministry Assistance of the Near Northwest Alliance
P.O. Box 924455
Houston, TX 77292

Box Tops for Education

Mary Oyer is collecting Box Tops for Education for Wainwright Elementary School. She is one of the chairmen for this project at Wainwright. Please clip the box top coupons and bring them to church. They can be left in the collection basket in the narthex or drop them in the church office.

This is a great way for schools to get additional funding. Mary's daughter, Nicole, started Kindergarten at Wainwright this year. Any help you can give with this project is greatly appreciated.

Fund Raiser for MANNA

Special performance of
Santa's Magic Timepiece

Presented by Theatre Suburbia
4106 Way Out West Drive
STE N
Houston, TX 77095

Proceeds from this performance to benefit MANNA

Date: November 8th at 8 pm

Cost: Tickets are \$20.00 each

To book a ticket online,
call the church office to have a link sent to you or
to book in person, email houstonmanna@gmail.com

Proceeds from the performance will assist MANNA in rebuilding the resale store that was burned down by an arsonist last year. For more information about MANNA and how the organization serves the community, visit the website:

www.manna-houston.org

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### **Immanuel Hamburger Fry**

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
306 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street

Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

\$3.50 for hamburger & fixings

\$ .50 each for drink and chips,

\$ .75 each for potato salad and pie





Gethsemane members interested in supporting a local food bank may bring donations of non-perishable food to church and leave them in the container

located in the Narthex. The collecting box is on the shelving, to the left of the flower chart. Junelle Nittsche will take your donations to Pathways until MANNA reopens its food pantry. Please take advantage of this opportunity to share God's blessings with our community.



**Adult Games Night**

**Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**

**5:00 pm**

Meet for a light meal and enjoy card and board games! Invite your friends.



**Houston Lutheran Choral  
Adventide 2018**

*For unto us a child is born* Isaiah 9:6

Featuring the Christmas section of Handel's "Messiah", John Rutter and other instrumentalists

**St. Timothy Lutheran Church**

14225 Hargrave Rd  
Houston, TX 77070

**Friday, November 30 at 7:30 pm**

**Memorial Lutheran Church**

5810 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Katy, Texas 77493

**Saturday, December 1 at 7:30 pm**

**Trinity Lutheran Church**

800 Houston Ave.  
Houston, Texas 77007

**Sunday, December 2 at 4:00 pm**

**Tickets are not required.** Bring your family and friends to begin the 2018 Christmas season in joyous song.



**MANNA'S "Rise Up from the Ashes" Campaign**

MANNA needs our help and support!

As you know, on Thursday, August 31, 2017 MANNA's resale store located at 1806 W. 43rd Street was burned down by an arsonist. The resale store was the main funding source to help families who are in need of food and financial assistance. Due to this horrific event, MANNA has depended on savings to continue providing for families in the community.

Thankfully a new home for the resale store became available at 3425 Couch Street (Houston -77018), and MANNA is looking forward to welcoming supporters and customers back to the store; however, renovations for the new space are estimated at \$75,000. MANNA has set a goal is to raise \$25,000 to make up for the renovation cost. Our help and support is needed in order for MANNA to reach their goal and reopen the resale shop. 100% of donations to the campaign will be used to purchase materials and cover labor costs.

When the resale store is up and running, MANNA can help more families across Houston. In 2017 alone, MANNA fed 10,000 people which translates to 6,500 families.

A donation of even \$5 will help MANNA rise up from the ashes in a triumphant way!

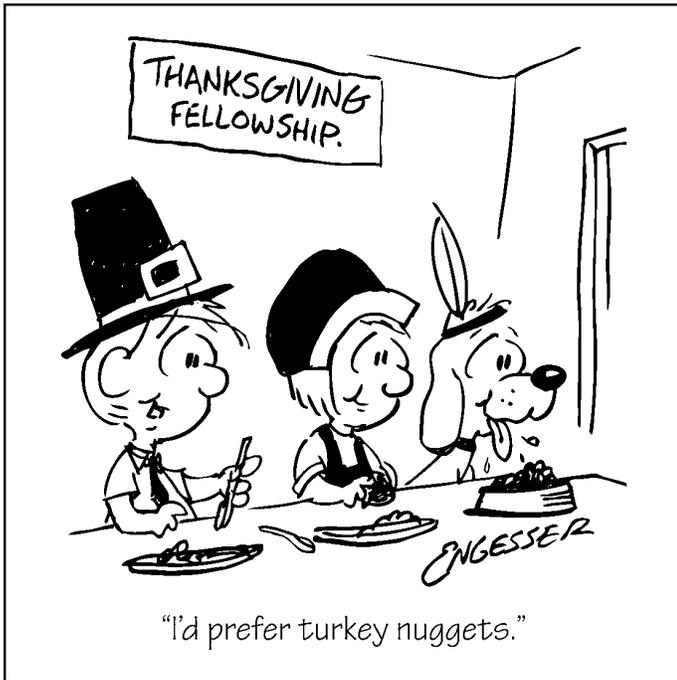
Contribute through MANNA's GoFundMe site at:

[www.gofundme.com/help-manna039s-resale-store](http://www.gofundme.com/help-manna039s-resale-store)

To donate with a check, make it payable to "Ministry Assistance of the Near Northwest Alliance" and mail it to the following address:

MANNA  
P.O. Box 924455  
Houston, TX 77292

MANNA extends their heartfelt thanks for all the support they receive.



## Election year advice

In 1774, John Wesley, co-founder of the Methodist Church, offered this advice to people who'd be voting:

- Vote, without fee or reward, for the person you judge most worthy.
- Speak no evil of the person you vote against.
- Take care your spirits aren't sharpened against those who voted on the other side.

**A.D. Players at the George Theater**  
5420 Westheimer Road - 77056

**presents**

***It's a Wonderful Life*** - A Live Radio Play  
adapted by Joe Landry

This timeless story takes a new turn as a 1940's radio broadcast. With the help of a troupe of 6 radio actors portraying a few dozen characters, the story of idealistic George Bailey unfolds over the airwaves on Christmas Eve. This is a fresh, fun, and touching look at a beloved story.

Performances: November 30 - December 23  
(Previews on November 28 & 29)

For tickets, call 713-526-2721 or go to  
[www.adplayers.org](http://www.adplayers.org)